

REMARKS

Claims 20 – 54 are pending in the present application. Claims 36 – 46 have been allowed. Claims 20-23, 26, 27, 29-35, 47, and 52 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,466,744. Claims 24, 25, 28, 49 – 51, 53 and 54 have been objected to, however the Examiner has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 36 – 46 and the indication of allowability as to the objected to claims.

I. Claim 20.

Claim 20 has been amended, and as amended, claim 20 claims:

A camera, comprising:

a first electronic circuit board having a first electronic circuit to perform a first set of camera functions, the first electronic circuit having a first set of electrical contacts;

a second electronic circuit board having a second electronic circuit with a second set of electrical contacts to engage the first set of electrical contacts with the second electronic circuit defined to cooperate with the first electronic circuit to perform a second set of camera functions;

a frame holding the first electronic circuit board;

a cover joinable to the frame;

a mounting between the cover and the frame for holding the second electronic circuit board and positioning the second set of electrical contacts so that when the cover is joined to the frame the second set of electrical contacts are positioned to engage the first set of electrical contacts to cause the first electronic circuit board to cooperate with the second electronic circuit to perform the second set of camera functions.

The '744 patent does not anticipate this claim. Specifically, the '744 patent does not anticipate a mounting as claimed. The Office Action of March 28, 2003, identifies two structures in the '744 patent which are suggested as meeting this limitation, main body 1 of Fig. 6, and an unnamed structure 91 shown in Fig. 8.

As is indicated at Col. 12, at lines 3 – 5 of the ‘744 patent, a strobe unit 2 is provided having a first printed circuit board 21 on which parts, constituting a fundamental strobe circuit are mounted. As indicated at Col. 12, lines 14 - 22, strobe unit 2 is attached to the main body 1 in a manner such that first printed circuit board 21 is arranged between exposing section 1a and film rolling chamber 1b. An additional circuit board 26 is joined to circuit board 21 by way of electrical connectors between these boards as is shown and described with respect to Fig. 7. Importantly, the boards are held together by soldering the connectors to each board.

As claimed in claim 20, the mounting is between the body and the frame, and the mounting holds the second electronic circuit and positions contacts of the second electronic circuit to engage contacts of the first electronic circuit. No soldering is needed thus the boards and mounting are easily assembled during product manufacturing and recycling.

Item 91 of Fig. 8 also fails to anticipate the mounting limitation of claim 20. As an initial matter, the specification is silent as to what item 91 is or what its functions are. However, this structure also appears to be a main camera body to which a first circuit board 111 is attached. First circuit board 111 cooperates with a second circuit board 112. However, the specification specifically states the following with respect to the first and second circuit boards:

At the back side of printed circuit board 111, added printed circuit board 112, on which parts, utilized for added circuit (detailed later), are mounted, **is supported by means of connecting members 113 having conductivity. (emphasis supplied).** Col. 13, lines 13-20:

Thus, it is clear that item 91 of Fig. 8 does not hold the second circuit board as claimed and further Fig. 8 fails to show any mounting structure defined between the frame and body that holds the second circuit board, and positions the second set of electrical contacts so that when the cover is joined to the frame the second set of electrical contacts is positioned to engage the first set of electrical contacts to cause the first electronic circuit board to cooperate with the second circuit board to perform a second set of camera functions.

Accordingly, claim 20 and all claims depending from claim 20 are believed to be allowable.

II. Claim 29

The '744 patent also fails to anticipate the limitations of claim 29. Claim 29 claims:

29. (Amended) A one-time use camera comprising,

an image capture unit,

a first circuit board having a flash circuit with a power supply, a flash capacitor, a flash capacitor charging circuit and a flash discharge circuit to perform a first set of camera functions including flash light charge and flash light emission functions, said flash circuit having a first set of electrical contacts;

a second circuit board having a second electronic circuit with a second set of electrical contacts adapted to engage the first set of electrical contacts, so that the first electronic circuit can cooperate with the second electronic circuit to perform a second set of camera functions; and

a camera frame joined to the first circuit board;

said camera further having a cover joined to the frame and positioning the second circuit so that the contacts of the second circuit board engage the contacts of the first circuit board.

The '744 patent does not appear to suggest that camera cover 921 or camera cover 931 are "joined to the frame and position[] the second circuit board so that the contacts of the second circuit board engage the contacts of the first circuit board." In fact, there is no shown or described circumstance where the location of the cover has any influence on the position of the contacts of the second circuit board.

III. Claim 47

Claim 47 claims:

47. A method of assembling a camera to perform a desired set of functions; comprising:

providing a camera frame having a first electronic system capable of performing a first set of camera functions;

determining that the first electronic system cannot perform the set of desired functions;

providing a mounting having a second electronic system to cooperate with the first electronic system to perform the desired functions;

providing a camera cover; and,

assembling the camera cover to the frame with the mounting held therebetween so that the first electronic system is joined to the second electronic system.

The '744 patent does not anticipate this claim. Specifically, the '744 patent does not anticipate the steps of providing a mounting and assembling the camera cover to the frame with the mounting held therebetween so that the first electronic system is joined to the second electronic system as claimed. As noted above, the '744 patent does not describe such a mounting structure.

Conclusion

All claims of the present invention, as amended, are now believed to be in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,



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In the Claims

20. (Amended) A camera, comprising:

a first electronic circuit board having a first electronic circuit to perform a first set of camera functions, the first electronic circuit having a first set of electrical contacts;

a second electronic circuit board having a second electronic circuit with a second set of electrical contacts to engage the first set of electrical contacts with the second electronic circuit defined to cooperate with the first electronic circuit to perform a second set of camera functions;

a frame holding the first electronic circuit board;

a cover joinable to the frame;

a mounting between the cover and the frame, for holding the second electronic circuit board and positioning the second set of electrical contacts so that when the cover is joined to the frame the second set of electrical contacts are positioned to engage the first set of electrical contacts to cause the first electronic circuit board to cooperate with the second electronic circuit to perform the second set of camera functions.